

*Amend*

providing, by a multi-client manager unit and not by a client, selectable digital signature expiry data including at least public verification key expiry data, and selectable private signing key expiry data to a plurality of clients, that are selectable on a per client basis wherein the digital signature key pairs are not shared among users;

digitally storing both selected public key expiry data and selected private key expiry data for association with a new digital signature key pair; and

associating the stored selected expiry data with the new digital signature key pair to affect a transition from an old digital signature key pair to a new digital signature key pair.

*Amend*

14. (Four Times Amended) A system for providing updated digital signature key pairs to a plurality of clients in a public key system comprising:

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multi-client manager means for providing selectable digital signature expiry data to a plurality of clients and not by a client, including at least both public verification key expiry data and private signing key expiry data that are selectable on a per client basis wherein the digital signature key pairs are not shared among users;

means, accessible by the multi-client manager means, for digitally storing both selected public key expiry data and selected private key expiry data for association with a new digital signature key pair; and

means, responsive to the stored selected public key expiry data, for associating the stored selected expiry data with the new digital signature key pair to affect a transition from an old digital signature key pair to a new digital signature key pair.